

adhesives act as moisture barriers, which can limit the effectiveness of the antibacterial agent.

B¹ Finally, the device of this patent teaches including a slit in the bottom pad of the dressing, which lies below the intravenous needle or catheter when the device is in place, allowing the intravenous device to remain in contact with the skin, and therefore limiting the infection control of the device.

[On page 8, delete the paragraph at lines 3 - 13, and replace with the following:

B² Figure 4, 5, and 6 demonstrate placement of the dressing 10 around a catheter 32, with the bottom dressing 22 sliding under the catheter 32 such that the lower surface 38 (see Figure 2) of the bottom dressing 22 contacts the patient's skin (not shown), while the upper surface 40 of the bottom dressing 22 contacts the catheter 32 protruding from the skin. Once the top dressing 20 is applied, by folding it over the bottom dressing 22, the lower surface 42 (see Figure 2) of the top dressing 20 is in contact with the catheter 32 protruding from the skin. The upper surface 44 of the top dressing 20 is then covered with the occlusive or semi-occlusive layer 36, as shown in Figure 3. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, when the dressing 10 is formed from a unitary dressing, the lower surface 42 of the top dressing 20 and the upper surface 40 of the bottom dressing 22, are one and the same layer, represented as layer 16 in Figure 1.

Enclosed are new pages highlighting the changes to these two paragraphs.

IN THE FIGURES:

Please substitute the enclosed two sheets of formal drawings, including Figures 1 - 6, for the informal drawings originally filed. In Figures 4 and 5, Applicants have switched the reference numerals 20 and 22, to correct an error noted by the Examiner. The black shading objected to is also deleted from the Figures.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete current claims 1 - 26 and add the following new claims 27 - 72.

B³ 27. A transcutaneous device dressing for use with a transcutaneous medical device which has punctured the skin of a patient and which has a portion of the medical device protruding from the skin, comprising: